

MD 94-19

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MAR 29 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Art Agnew
4722 Santa Rosita Ct
Santa Rosa, Ca 95405

November 17, 1993

Secretary of the Federal Communications Commission
C/O Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Proposed VHF "User Fee"

Gentlemen

As a recreational boater and user of a VHF radio I am very distressed to learn the FCC is proposing to create a new "User Fee" on holders of VHF marine radio licenses of \$7.00 per annum. It is my understanding this new fee would be in addition to the existing \$35.00 license fee now required.

I do not see the logic in this "New Tax against boat owners", and I feel the only outcome, should it come to fruition, will be a negative impact on *BOATING SAFETY*. It is my feeling boat owners will give serious consideration to not installing VHF radios in their vessels due to the high costs of properly licensing their station. It should be no secret that one of our most important pieces of safety equipment carried is the VHF radio. I hope you will reconsider this proposal to increase these fees and refrain from putting such an increase in to effect.

Sincerely


Art Agnew
Recreational Boater

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Edward V. Weber
60 Round Hill Road
Poughkeepsie, N Y 12603
18 November, 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Gentlemen:

I just read that the FCC is considering adding another \$7.00 per year to the current \$35.00 license fee for Marine station licenses.

I am opposed to any increase in fees. VHF radios are an effective safety device because they provide a means of communication at times of problems. An increase of fees would discourage some boaters from having a radio thus reducing their ability to summon help in times of distress. The current fee is already well in excess of the cost of providing licenses with a reasonably efficient operation. The government should not be padding the general fund by extracting fees beyond costs.

Sincerely,



cc: Congressman H. Fish
Senator A. D'Amato
Senator P. Moynihan

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R. K. COOK
117 WEATHERFIELD LANE
GLENVIEW, IL 60025

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13 November 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

I just learned through Boat US that the FCC is about to try to pass yet another so called User Fee that will in essence tax boaters another \$7.00 per year for using a VHF radio on their boats.

It seems like as soon as the government gets knocked down for one unfair and unreasonable tax (user fee) against boaters; they are right on line to try another.

The original \$35.00 tax, (user fee) for VHF radios was certainly unfair and unreasonable. Now to propose another such tax, (user fee), which will double the cost of operating a VHF radio is really a gouge against all boaters.

When you consider that the basic use of a VHF radio is to promote safety on the water; these taxes seem doubly ridiculous.

It is unfair to all boaters and double unfair to members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary who are offering themselves and their boats for the safety, protection and rescue of people in peril on the water. I personally compiled 118 hours of patrol this past Summer. My VHF radio is used 95% of the time for Auxiliary activities. Any and all taxes, (user fees), are unfair for an item that is used primarily for safety on the water.

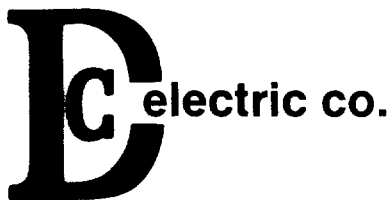
Anything you can do to see that this proposed tax is scrapped, will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. K. Cook
Richard K. Cook

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PHONE 401 732-8860 FAX 401 732-8851

P.O. BOX 3692

CRANSTON, RHODE ISLAND 02910

Engineering and Design

November 17, 1993

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Managing Director
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Secretary,

I am a member of Boat/US, and wish to protest the proposed additional "User Fee" of \$35.00, for the Marine VHF Radio License.

I believe that increasing the existing fee from \$35.00 to \$70.00 will cause many Boaters not to use their radios.

This will cause a negative impact of Boating Safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Donald Carnevale'.

Mr. Donald Carnevale
Owner

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Quigley'.

James A. Atherton

MD 94-19

306 Craig Court
Steger, IL 60475-1311
(708) 756-2145

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18 November 1993

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SECRETARY OF THE FCC
c/o OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M STREET NORTH WEST
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

MAR 29 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

NEW VHF MARINE RADIO FEE

As a USCG Licensed Captain I am **against** any new radio fees for boaters and especially recreational boaters. It is hard enough to communicate with the recreational boater today, when having a radio on board is a low cost luxury. I feel that if the new \$7.00 per year fee goes into effect people are going to opt not to have a radio on their boat.

Please, keep boating safety in mind rather than just the budget.

Sincerely,



Captain James A. Atherton

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Aug.

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Village Travel

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1135 Torrey Pines Rd. La Jolla, California 92037



Nov 18

(619) 454-3178

Fax: (619) 454 2601

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Secretary FCC

C/o office of Managing Director

1919 M St. N.W.

Wash. D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARYNumber of Copies rec'd
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Aug.

re: proposed new fees for Rec. Boaters
Dear Madam or Sir:

Is and other boaters are quite
tired of the recent onslaught of
fees and increased costs to own
or live in a boat. If you could see
the empty marinas, you'd soon
get the true picture. Everytime
you look for way to increase revenue,
realize you may have overextended.
You and other agencies are running
as out. The costs are prohibitive.
Why not look for way to cut back
the big bureaucracy not increase
fees and increase the govt.

Soon anyway, you'll have no one
to collect from. I hope taxpayers
revolt soon, I'll join. I pay \$10
fees already to own my old boat.
Stop or we are all quitting.
Kathy Heintz

11222 Skyline Blvd., Woodside, CA 94062 - 415-726-2592

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**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY**

22 November 1993

Secretary of the FCC
% Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I would like to protest the imposition of taxes on a piece of safety gear for boat operation; specifically the new VHF radio set tax.. This is uncalled for, especially in view of the recent increase in the radio operator's license fee. The net effect is to decrease safety because more boat owners, especially those with small boats, would opt to go without radios rather than risk the huge fines for not paying the fees and taxes imposed on the radios.

Please reconsider imposing this new tax.

Sincerely,



THEODORE Z. HAX

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC, 20554

Dear Sir,

This letter is in reference to your proposal to install a "user fee" on holders of VHF Marine Licenses. I feel that the primary reason for having this radio on the boat is for BOATING SAFETY for myself, family and other boaters.

I believe that by you doubling the cost of this marine VHF license it will have a negative impact on BOATING SAFETY causing some boaters not to have one on board their vessel. As a result this could cost a life.

The VHF Marine radio was designed to be a instrument to make boating a safe pastime not a tool to raise revenues.

PLEASE STOP THE " USER FEE" !!!

Yours truly,

Dan Ameraro
144 Rinnmont Ave
So. Nyack NY 10960

Dan Ameraro
(Signature)

Nov 22, 1993
(Date)

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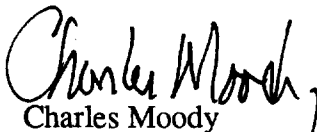
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15 November 1993
203 Pawnee Circle
Ft Walton Beach
Florida 32547
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of FCC

I believe the additional seven dollars per year being proposed for VHF licenses is unwarranted. If the "user fee" is in addition the \$35 current fee, that would make a \$70 fee which is unreasonable to say the least. Boaters appear to be a perennial target for federal agencies because it is a large fee base and is generally not organized well enough to defend itself. Please reconsider this proposed additional fee.

Another point is that most boats (and the VHF radios) sit idle in berths a large part of the time and are only occasionally used. Even when the boat is used, the VHF radio may not be. So how can a "user fee" be applied that's fair to all? I believe that 90 percent of the people who would be paying this additional "user fee" would be using the VHF radio very little. So, where's the justification for an additional fee?


Charles Moody

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

November 15, 1993

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

This letter is to oppose the imposition of any new "user fees" on recreational boaters or other holders of VHF marine radio licenses. VHF and HF radios are essential safety devices for recreational vessels as well as commercial vessels, and their availability should be promoted and not penalized by arbitrary taxation not specifically designated for marine safety enhancement.

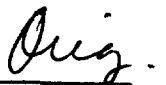
If the FCC has been mandated as a revenue raising agent for the U.S. Treasury, then I suggest a substantial surcharge on CB equipment which clutters the airwaves with profanity and obscenity, causes serious radio and TV interference, requires no license fee, and is virtually totally unregulated.

Very truly yours,


William G. Pettus

Rt. 2 Box 549
Monroe, VA 24574
(804) 384-2089

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1560 Trails Edge Lane
Reston, VA 22094-1514

November 22, 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Secretary,

Tell me it isn't so! The FCC really wants to double the VHF marine radio license? What is going on? The current fee structure (\$35 for 5 years) is a ripoff as it is, now someone wants to rip more off! This has to stop! Please register my strong objection to the imposition of any increase in the fees I and other boaters have to pay to keep an essential safety equipment on board our boats.

I can only guess what reasons people, "government bureaucrats", give for imposing the extra fees. "Pay as you go" is one of them, I'm sure. "Users should pay the full cost" is another related reason. All of them add up to the same effect: some boaters will not pay, they will remove their radios, and safe boating gets a kick in the pants.

I don't know what the FCC's budget is. I'm not sure what good they do for me or other boaters that justifies that budget. Personally, I think the best way to have the current fees pay for whatever the FCC "has" to do is for the FCC's budget be cut! You know the term, it's "RIF".

My strong recommendation is that "RIF" be applied to the FCC and that "FEEs" not be raised. Congresswoman Byrne, Senator Warner, Senator Robb, please take note, and take whatever action is required to prohibit imposition of an increase in the fee to operate that necessary piece of safety equipment, the VHF marine radio. President Clinton, cut spending, do not raise "fees" (i.e., taxes).

Sincerely,


Henry J. Trochesset

copies to: Hon Leslie Byrne, Hon John Warner, Hon Charles Robb
President W. J. Clinton

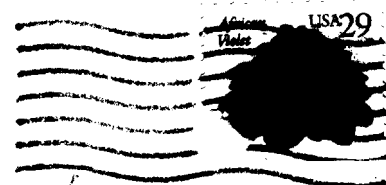
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James & Mary Purcell
141 Capital Hwy.
Stony Point, NY 10980



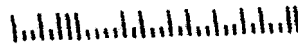
Secretary of the FCC
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Federal Communication's Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC, 20554



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC, 20554

Dear Sir,

This letter is in reference to your proposal to install a "user fee" on holders of VHF Marine Licenses. I feel that the primary reason for having this radio on the boat is for BOATING SAFETY for myself, family and other boaters.

I believe that by you doubling the cost of this marine VHF license it will have a negative impact on BOATING SAFETY causing some boaters not to have one on board their vessel. As a result this could cost a life.

The VHF Marine radio was designed to be a instrument to make boating a safe pastime not a tool to raise revenues.

PLEASE STOP THE " USER FEE" !!!

Yours truly,

JAMES F. PURCELL

141 CENTRAL HIGHWAY

STONY POINT NY 10980

James F. Purcell

(Signature)

11-22-93

(Date)

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

DEAR F.C.C.

30 YEARS A GO THIS WAS
A FINE AGENCY = NOW ITS
A DISGRACE = A RIP OFF
I SUGGEST YOU AND
YOUR TOP 20 MEN
RESIGN & GO TO WORK

SINCERLY

B.W. WILLIAMS

TALOMAT WASH/

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November 17, 1993

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Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Gentlemen,

Just read, with dismay, in the November issue of REPORTS magazine from BOAT/U.S. that you are considering new fees for VHF license holders.

Please consider the rise in unlicensed radio operations that could occur if this plan is enacted. There is a large number of VHF operators that are not licensed to begin with and you can hear their incessant abuse of VHF transmission rules on any summers weekend. Additional licensing fees will only serve to drive the legal operators to duplicate the antics of those not licensed.

Need to increase revenues? Really? Then catch and severely penalize those abusing the existing system. Word is that you have the means to locate the abusers - or is that not correct?

Catch the operator who yells "hey Mac! you out here, gotcha ears on" on channel 16 and fine the devil out of him before contemplating new fees on the "legals". Bottom line is catch the bad guys first.

Regards,

Bob Hogan
Bob Hogan
19707 - 44 Ave. West, #209
Lynnwood, WA 98036

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3395 Townley Pl.
Lawrenceville, Ga. 30244
November, 18, 1993

Secretary of the FCC
C/O Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Mr. Secretary:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

It has been brought to my attention that your office is proposing an increase in cost for VHF Marine Radio Licenses of \$35.00, in addition to the current \$35.00 (for a 5 year license).

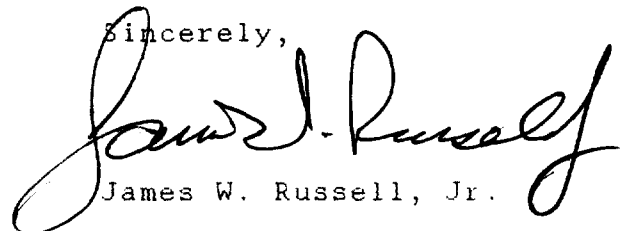
I appreciate your interest in bringing more moneys into your coffers, but I do not find any compelling justifiable rational for such a move.

All that I see that will be accomplished is possibly a few more dollars available to you, ...but what will happen, is this will have a Major Negative Impact On Boating Safety In The U.S.

Boaters need to be encouraged to "Use" Their VHF Radios, and to use them "Correctly" for the safety of all.

Continuing to hassle boaters with so called "User Fees" will only continue to undermine safety, the major purpose of the radio in the first place.

Sincerely,


James W. Russell, Jr.

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Quis

MD 94-19

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7855 South Shore Drive
Chicago IL 60649
November 18, 1993

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Secretary:

I just read the November issue of BOAT/U.S. Reports which contained an article describing your plan to introduce a new "user fee" which would double what we now pay to use our marine VHF radiotelephone.

I don't know if you or anyone in your office has recently listened to marine radio traffic, but as a conscientious, regulation-observing individual I am appalled with what I hear regularly. Most operators do not observe proper protocol when calling, choosing channels or signing off. All this goes without correction because these people do not use call signs and, therefore, cannot be identified. Anyone can purchase a VHF radio and operate it. Your plan to increase fees will only exacerbate that situation since you will be penalizing a continually shrinking population of boaters who purchase licenses to operate their radios legally.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your proposal and DO NOT initiate a user fee.

Sincerely,


Cecelia Larson

cc: BOAT/U.S.

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MD 94-19

HUGH POLING
11055 17th AVENUE NE
SEATTLE, WASH 98125

NOVEMBER 17, 1993

SECRETARY OF THE FCC
% OFFICE OF MANAGING DIRECTOR
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1910 M ST. NW, WASH DC 20554

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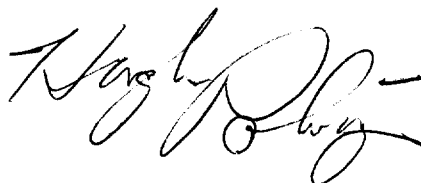
MAR 29 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

DEAR SECRETARY,

I RECENTLY READ IN THE BOAT/US REPORTS THAT THE FCC IS PLANNING TO PROPOSE NEW 'USER FEES' FOR VHF RADIO LICENSES. SINCE I CURRENTLY ONLY USE THE VHF RADIO ON MY BOAT TO RECEIVE WEATHER REPORTS, I AM NOT CONVINCED I USE IT ENOUGH TO WARRANT HIGHER FEES. WOULD YOU CLARIFY WHETHER ELIMINATING THE TRANSMIT CAPABILITY OF THE RADIO BY DISCONNECTING THE HANDSET WOULD ALLEVIATE THE NEED FOR A LICENSE? PLEASE CONSIDER TWO CASES: 1) THE HANDSET IS REMOVED FROM THE BOAT ENTIRELY, AND 2) THE HANDSET IS DISCONNECTED BUT STOWED IN THE BOAT FOR EMERGENCY USE, WHERE THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE WOULD JUSTIFY AN UNLICENSED TRANSMISSION.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR REPLY. IT WILL HELP ME OPTIMIZE USE OF THE VHF RADIO



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1842 N. Dawnview Terrace
Oak Harbor, WA 98277
206 675 9636

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 29 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

RE: New fees for recreational boaters

Dear Madam or Sir:

I understand that the FCC is going to propose an extra user fee of \$7.00/year for the VHF marine radio license. This will mean that the VHF license cost will total \$70 for the five year period.


I object to an increase because the VHF radio is a safety device. We boaters use it, depend on it, and we provide extra eyes and ears for the US Coast Guard. Radios are not on just big boats. They are virtually a necessity for boats of any size operating in navigable waters. High fees may well decrease the number of radios on boats, and certainly will decrease compliance.

On the other hand, amateur radio operators pay nothing for a 10 year license. The standard defense for no-fees is that these persons perform necessary emergency services and the hobbyists are important inventors on the cutting edge of radio technology. Both arguments are bogus. The emergency nets involve relatively few individuals compared to the number who are licensed. And, contributing advances to basic technology is now far beyond the capabilities of all but a few hobbyists.

In the interest of equity, you should charge the same fees for marine radio licenses that you do for radio amateur licenses. For example if the amateur license were \$70 for five years, the 500,000 amateurs would contribute \$7,000,000/year to your coffers.

I operate a licensed VHF radio on my boat and I also hold a General Class Amateur Radio License. The disparity in license fees is obviously due to organized lobbying of one group rather than to a sense of equity, necessity, and fair play.

Sincerely,


George H. Crampton

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MD 94-19

Donald Sawaya
3567 Summer Oaks Circle
Salt Lake City, Utah 84121-5912

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November 17, 1993

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

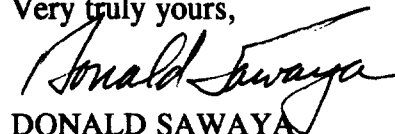
Secretary of the F. C. C.
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: Proposed Fee Increase for VHF Marine Radio Licenses

Gentlemen:

I note in *BOAT/U.S. Reports* that the Commission is considering a 100% increase in license fees for VHF marine radio licenses. Such an increase would be counterproductive and would result in an increased number of unlicensed operators. I doubt that the administrative costs of the process would justify an increase considering that for many years licenses were issued without charge. In this area there is little enforcement as it is and as often as not channel 16 sounds like Citizens' Band. Long range policy should encourage licensing and enforcement rather than avoidance of the regulations.

Very truly yours,


DONALD SAWAYA

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11/19/93

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9460 Winans Lake Rd.
Brighton, MI 48116
November 15, 1993

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MAR 29 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sirs:

I understand that it is the intention of your office to increase the license fee on marine radios by \$7.00 per year. I'm writing to ask you if you realize the effect this will have on the safety of boating. When your office added the five-year, \$35.00 tax in 1992, I saw evidence of the loss of discipline of the system to the extent that almost everyone I hear on Lake St. Clair no longer uses their call letters on the air. I personally know of two people who use their radios and don't have a license. If this keeps up you'll have a situation like we had with the luxury tax on boats last year. More and more people will stop paying this "tax".

Last year I even considered using a CB radio on my boat. I'm tired of the government penalizing boaters because they think we are all wealthy. My wife and I are retired. Our pension is not a large one. We have our boat up for sale right now because of all the new tax increases on boaters. Three years ago our boat license fee went up 268%.

I feel that more boaters will change to CB radios and that's not as safe as our VHF system. Please don't tax safety items! Next we'll probably have taxes on life preservers and fire extinguishers.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Anderson, Jr.

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Aug

MD 94-19

11/19/93

16 Farm Road
St. James, LI, NY 11780
November 12, 1993

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Secretary of the FCC
c/o Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

Office of Managing Director:

As a pleasure boat owner, I find your intent to increase the already unjust VHF Marine Radio License even more stupid than the Boat User Fee was.

A Radio on board is perhaps as necessary as a Floatation Device or a Fire Extinguisher, which are all safety devices - Will our Government Agencies Tax these next?

The radio on my boat is used only to communicate with other recreational boaters, therefore, what is the contribution from the Federal Communications Commission? I believe the Air space is as much mine as anyone else - Not the FCC!

Let me inform you here and now - I reluctantly paid a \$35.00 fee to have a VHF radio on board, I regretted paying for it. I will not have such regrets in the future because I never again pay for such unjust blackmail which benefits no Recreational Boater. If you find justification through your weather broadcast, you can well save that expense since most Radio Stations broadcast the same US Weather Bureau Guesses on a 10 minute basis.

Marlene Elflein

Marlene Elflein

P.S. What Services do you provide for you present \$35.00 license?

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November 18, 1993

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, DC 20554

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MAR 29 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Regarding: Planned FCC Regulatory Fees

Dear Sir,

I understand that the FCC plans to increase the radio license fees for boaters and other mariners from \$35 to \$70 (for a five year license) and \$105 (for a ten year license). I am strongly opposed to this action as it is definitely a safety disincentive for boaters, in that new boaters will not be installing VHF radios and/or radars on their recreational boats, because of "ANOTHER government tax". Current boaters will be opposed to renewing current licenses and will be either operating without a license or not using collision avoidance equipment at all. I strongly believe this because of the current economic conditions, ie: job layoffs, higher fuel taxes, and higher taxes in general. The net result will be a safety factor as boaters will not have communications means in a time of emergency, therefore not only putting themselves in danger, but other boaters as well.

Again, I am strongly opposed to this action, and request that you reconsider the fee raise.

Thank you,

Gyena Hoover
name
3216 Telegraph Ave.
address
Stockton, Ca. 95204
city, state, zip

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sirs,

Having read of the proposed user fee increase of \$7.00, I am considering taking the VHF radio off of my boat. For the current \$35.00 for 5 years, what do I get? I get to listen to some of the foulest language I have ever heard. If my family is on board, I cannot have the radio turned on. If I am sailing alone, I do not turn the radio on because I do not want to listen to such filth. You do nothing to police the airways. You have a lot of rules that you do not enforce and your proposed increase only represents more government taxes with no benefit.

Sincerely,



Allen H. Storms

cc: Senator Robert Smith
Senator Judd Gregg
Congressman William Zeliff

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November 15, 1993

Office of the Managing Director
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
1919 M ST N W
WASHINGTON DC 20554

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MAR 29 1994

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dear Sir:

It has been reported that you are planning to propose an additional fee for VHF marine radio licenses.

The current fee of \$35 is excessive and is a rip-off since it is essentially a tax. The "service" should cost no more than \$2-3, \$5 certainly is a maximum reasonable fee to complete a simple, computerized form and mail it.

The addition of the proposed additional \$7 per year "tax", since no real service is provided, is totally absurd. This would increase the fee for a simple form to \$70 for 5 years for an item that should cost no more than \$5.00 total.

If this Democratic administration were serious about reducing the cost of government and making government more efficient, VHF licenses should be reduced, NOT RAISED. Your proposal is ridiculous and will cause people to "go-naked" either by not having a radio or by not having a license.

I certainly hope you bureaucrats in Washington rethink this and get realistic about what your so called services are worth.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Thomas

CC: Office of the President
BOAT/US

FCC Eyes New Fees on Recreational Boaters

As this issue goes to press, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is planning in mid-November to propose new "user fees" on holders of VHF marine radio licenses of \$7 per year, or an extra \$35 for a five-year license. This new fee would be in addition to the existing \$35 license fee now required. BOAT/U.S. believes doubling the cost of a marine VHF license will have a negative impact on boating safety. Members and boating groups are urged to send comments to: Secretary of the FCC, c/o Office of Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20554.

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